

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 10, 2011 has been received and considered. In this response, claims 22 and 24 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. Claim 23 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication at page 5 of the Office Action that claims 1-21, 33, and 34 are allowed, and that claims 23 and 24 recite allowable subject matter. Claim 22 has been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 23, and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

Section 112 Rejection of Claims 22-24

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The rejection relies upon independent claim 22 being in means-plus-function form. Claim 22 as amended is not in the means-plus-function form. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection of Claim 22

At page 4 of the Office Action, claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elzur (U.S. Patent No. 6,449,656) in view of Tamer (U.S. Patent No. 5,619,501). Claim 22 has been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 23, and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of the obviousness rejection and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone

number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

The Applicants believe no additional fees are due, but if the Commissioner believes additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-3797.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date